

Practicing Critical Thinking: Literacy Education to Filter News in The Digital World

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Abstract: The digital era provides a powerful transformation in various aspects of life by creating new things that are freely perceived with technology. In the renewal in the digital era, it can be felt by the community because with digital technology, people can access information in real time. Even at this time, the development of information technology users in Indonesia is developing significantly based on data from the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII), internet usage in 2016 was around 132.7 million and the number of internet users also increased in 2021-2022, stating that from the survey results, the number of internet users reached 210.03 million in Indonesia. ranked 8th in the world and 5th in terms of smartphone usage in the world. However, in the face of technological transformation in this digital era, People must have the ability to think critically in digging or finding out and obtaining existing information in real time. This display of critical thinking is taught in literacy education. With digital literacy, it will be easy for people to evaluate, then internalize it by thinking critically to analyze the information found. This study uses a descriptive analysis method with a qualitative approach through library research that involves the analysis and synthesis of various literatures. The results of this study state that digital literacy education has an important role for the public in filtering information in the digital world with a creative, critical, and inspirational attitude as a digital invitation to reduce hoax news.

Keywords: Critical Thinking, Education, Literacy

Introduction

The development of communication and information technology is very influential on aspects and social order of life, including the existing communication system in Indonesia. In this information system, a communication system is formed that is open to individuals to other individuals to convey their views and even assumptions (Wiryaningrum et al., 2022) Communication and information technology provides the foundation and influence of human interaction mediated by technology that is able to reach people of openness in any world (Setiawan, 2018).

In today's digital era, information is easily accessible quickly by anyone via the internet. The dissemination of information through the internet is very easy to see by anyone, even people all over

the world (Muarifillah et al., 2024). Based on data from the Indonesian Internet Service Administration Association (APJII), the growth rate of internet use in Indonesia increased from 2013-2016 to 71.19 million to 132.7 million, then in 2021-2022 internet users in Indonesia reached 210.03 million in Indonesia (Diarti et al., 2017). The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology also stated that internet users in Indonesia are ranked 8th in the world and 5th in terms of smartphone use in the world.

The influence of this digital era is very large, especially in the dissemination of information. The development of information and communication technology has a major impact on human interaction on social media, besides this will also allow people to get information instantly on social media (Sagala et al., 2024). The speed of accessing

information will certainly be useful and help community activities. However, the speed of dissemination of information through digital will cause the information obtained to be incorrect because there is no filtering in obtaining it. Moreover, the fast access received must certainly be balanced with precision and proficiency in accessing information (Fitriarti, 2019). The ability to access the community in accessing information at large is also an ongoing concern. Because accessing information widely will cause the information obtained to be incorrect or hoaxes (Ditha Prasanti, 2018).

Therefore, advances in information and communication technology must be in line with people's capacity to understand digitally. With digital literacy, it is hoped that it can be a tangible form of preventive efforts to combat fake news. Increasing digital literacy in society is very important to help people understand and control the news that spreads, so that they can be more careful in choosing information and can handle hoaxes well so as not to cause commotion in society. Good digital literacy allows people to understand the consequences of the information provided and helps control social media (Cahyani et al., 2024). The above statement shows that people must be more proficient in digital literacy. Which can provide a big impact on how people use social media, because they are able to control the news that spreads and understand it better. Thus, the public can be more careful when receiving news and can handle hoaxes wisely so that they do not appear. Chaos and unrest and a good atmosphere.

Materials and Methods

This research is carried out through a literature survey or literature review because it involves the analysis and synthesis of various literature related to the topic being researched. This right allows researchers to combine several pieces of information, namely, journal articles, books, research reports, as well as sources on developments in communication and information technology, how these things impact reading, and

how important literacy is in the digital era. Researchers can find different perspectives from the various authors and experts cited in the text when conducting a literature review. They can also review the progress of current research on the topic and look for factual evidence that supports or questions the questions posed in the text (Dinata, 2021). Researchers who use literature research methods can draw strong conclusions based on a deep understanding of the subject they are studying.

Results and Discussion

Literacy is a language ability that includes many points of ability such as listening, speaking, writing, as well as thinking and other skills (Surawan, 2011). The term Digital Literacy is familiar. Digital literacy has an understanding of the importance of communication in life. The existence of digital literacy has three reasons, namely first, the use of the internet and social media in the world is increasing day by day and becoming more and more intense. Second, People's Dependence on the Internet in Social Life such as search engines (Google) and also buying and selling sites and other information. Third, to analyze the information obtained by individuals, this requires specific abilities and skills. Therefore, digital literacy is needed (Sabrina, 2019).

Digital literacy plays an important role in improving people's ability to filter news in the digital world. Research findings show that digital literacy education can help people understand, analyze, and assess information received from digital media. Thus, digital literacy education can help people become smarter when using digital media and avoid spreading hoaxes (Sari et al., 2021).

Spreading hoaxes is currently very easy, especially on social media by utilizing digital technology. Hoaxes can also be used as news or propaganda information with a specific purpose (Halawa & Lase, 2022). The effectiveness of this hoax crossing is certainly still sustainable, therefore it is important for the community to be selective in receiving information

in communication technology. In the context of digital literacy education, it is important to broaden people's horizons on how to use digital technology effectively and wisely. Digital literacy education can be done through various ways, such as webinars, training, and specific educational programs. Thus, the public can be prepared to face the challenges of digital information that continues to develop and strengthen their ability to identify and avoid hoax news (Yahya, 2019).

The following is a related discussion about literacy education to filter news in the digital world, how to educate literacy to filter news in the digital world, the benefits of literacy education to filter news and efforts to improve literacy education to filter news in the digital world.

a. Literacy Education to Filter News in the Digital World

Digital literacy education is important for the public to reduce victims of hoax news (hoax) and digital media-based fraud. Digital literacy is an important skill in today's digital era, which helps individuals in processing and analyzing information effectively. With digital literacy, people avoid fraud, do not fall for hoaxes and get factual and accurate news or information. Digital literacy has benefits that involve understanding the use of digital information and communication, creative attitudes, critical thinking, and inspiring as digital invitations. To reduce hoax news, digital literacy must be built through continuous and consistent education, so that individuals can understand and consume content well. Bawden explained that digital literacy is the scope of organization, information presentation, to evaluation. Digital literacy education or education can start from honing skills in reading content so that the understanding of content is more critical (Restianty, 2018). Everyone needs to understand Digital Literacy, even from an early age, which can be taught independently or at school to be more directed (Deti Indah Kiranti et al., 2023)

The purpose of this digital literacy education is to teach media users to be able to analyze the information received and be able to consider their commercial goals behind the image of the information obtained (Palupi, 2020)

b. Reasons for the Importance of Digital Literacy in Filtering Information

Digital literacy has an important role in filtering the right news in the digital world (Sari et al., 2021) Here are some reasons why digital literacy is important: Identifying Untrue/False Information:

1. One of the literacy education efforts is to identify true or false information. (Annisa Anastasia Salsabila et al., 2023)
2. Evaluating the Authenticity of Sources: It is important to evaluate sources and information to distinguish between facts and opinions (Hetilaniar et al., 2023)
3. Maintaining Social Stability in Society (Ariastika, 2022)

With digital literacy, people can use social media to search for relevant information, check information with news quality testing tools, and read news from trusted sources. With digital literacy, individuals can read the news with a better understanding, check information with a better understanding, and read the news from trusted sources. With digital literacy, individuals can read the correct news and analyze the information with a better understanding, so it can help in preventing the spread of false information or hoaxes.

c. Benefits of Literacy Education to Filter News in the Digital World

There are several benefits of Digital Education to filter news in the digital world, namely:

1. To provide a basic understanding of the use of social media and find the right information keywords found on the internet (Darimis et al., 2023)
2. To teach critical thinking in filtering information on the internet (Yunita & Watini, 2022).
3. To provide a deeper understanding of the benefits and dangers of the internet in benchmarking the digital divide To open up opportunities for people to use the internet productively by reducing risks (Chevi Ardiana Rusmawan et al., 2023).

d. Efforts to Improve Literacy Education to Filter News in the Digital World

Efforts to increase digital literacy to filter news in the digital world can be done in various ways, such as:

- a. Information literacy training: Information literacy training carried out by national libraries and other agencies can help school workers and teachers understand the concept of digital literacy and the use of social media.
- b. Social media proficiency: Social media proficiency can help people understand digital literacy and the correct and appropriate use of digital technology.
- c. Information literacy programs.: Information literacy programs in national libraries and other digital services can help people get educational information about the importance of digital literacy in all areas of life
- d. Digital literacy ethics education: Digital literacy ethics education can help people not become victims of hoax news and digital media-based fraud.
- e. Online education platforms: Online education platforms can help teachers and students build digital literacy and understand various forms of communication such as language, text, broadcast, and digital media.
- f. Community service: Community service: The Community Service Program (KKN) can help people learn more about digital literacy.
- g. Ability to use information and communication: Impoving the ability to use information and communication can help people in learning to socialize, think critically, creatively, and inspirationally as a digital competition
- h. Intelligence using digital platforms: Increasing intelligence using digital platforms can help people in accurately disseminating information and managing digital libraries(Kurnianingsih et al., 2017).

Conclusions

Digital literacy skills are essential to be developed in the modern digital world. Digital literacy has a basic principle, namely understanding, using, and assessing information wisely, intelligently, carefully, and appropriately as needed, and helps people think critically, which can help them assess the variety and variety of information available on the internet. Digital literacy also helps people think critically, which helps them assess the various information available on the internet. Digital literacy can be used anywhere, such as in the family, school, or community. Digital media, such as interactive books and internet networks, can help students learn digital literacy. Digital media, such as digital books and the internet, can empower the ability to think critically in the modern century in learning. In the modern era, information literacy is very important because it can help people assess appropriate and relevant information and manage irrelevant content. Digital media, such as interactive books and internet networks, can help students in learning digital literacy.

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